

Serial No.: 10/811,763
Filing Date: March 29, 2004

Examiner: J.D. Zimmerman
Art Unit: 2854

REMARKS

Claims 1-8, 11-12, 20-21, 23-34 and 36-48 are currently pending.

Claims 9-10, 13-19, 22, and 35 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Claims 1-4, 7-8, 11-12, 20-21, 23-31, 34 and 36-38 have been amended.

New claims 39-48 have been added.

In the Office action dated August 23, 2005 the Examiner indicated the allowability of claims 19-21 and 35-37. Amended claim 1 essentially incorporates the claim elements of allowed claim 19 and amended claim 23 essentially incorporates the claim elements of allowed claim 35. As a result, it is believed that claims 1, 23 and their dependent claims believed to be allowable.

The Examiner found in his reasons for allowable subject matter that:

“Further the art neither teaches nor disclosures a method or apparatus further comprising one or more additional heatable roller that are opposing the former rollers.”

New claims 39-42 are directed to this allowable finding and are thus believed to be allowable.

The Examiner further found in his reasons for allowable subject matter that:

“Further, the are neither teaches or discloses a method (or apparatus using said method) further comprising a blotting material that is looped under and around the heatable rolls.”

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New claims 43-44 are directed to this allowable finding and are thus believed to be allowable.

The Examiner had rejected claims 12, 24 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Peterson et al in view of Gasparrini (U.S. 5,107,764). The applicant respectfully disagrees with this rejection and has presented new claims 45-48 in this regard. New claims 45-48 in this regard. New claims 45-48 contain the requirement that the heatable roll traverse the imaged surface of the flexographic printing element in a spiral or stepwise manner. The applicant firmly believes that this claim element is not disclosed or suggested by the prior art and claims 45-48 are allowable.

It making a rejection of claims 12, 24 and 25 the Examiner attempts to combine Gasparrini with Petersen, et al., such that "Gasparrini teaches a means for allowing at least one roll to traverse along the length of the "cylindrical...element". The Applicant disagrees with this rejection for the following reasons:

1. Gasparrini is from a different art than Petersen. Gasparrini deals with apparatus and method for cleaning printing presses, whereas Petersen (and this invention) deal with the production of printing plates. These are two non-analogous arts and one is not applicable to the other. As a result, the references are not properly combinable.
2. The design and purpose of the Gasparrini apparatus are substantially different from that of Petersen or this invention such that teachings of Gasparrini are not applicable to or combinable with Petersen. Specifically Gasparrini is directed to an apparatus that cleans printing presses. The Gasparrini apparatus, and the purpose thereof, bear no resemblance to the apparatus of Petersen or to the invention. In the passage of Gasparrini noted by the Examiner (col. 4, lines 45-49) it is revealed that Gasparrini moves nozzles along the length of a cylinder to clean it. This is substantially different from spiraling a heated roll across the face of a photopolymer printing element to

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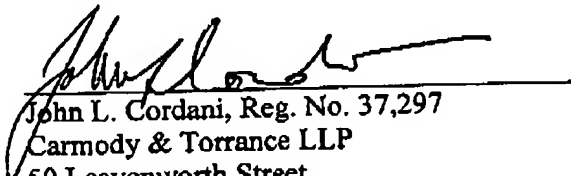
melt and remove non-crosslinked polymer. As such the designs, purposes and methods are inapplicable.

Based on the foregoing, it is believed that the art does not disclose or suggest thermal development apparatus with a heatable roll that moves across the imaged face of a flexographic printing element, to remove non-crosslinked polymer, in a spiral or stepwise fashion. As a result, new claims 45-48 are believed allowable.

CONCLUSION

This application is believed to be in a condition for immediate allowance. Such action is earnestly sought. If the Examiner perceives of any reason why this application should not be allowed, he is requested to contact the undersigned for a telephonic interview prior to the issuance of the next Office action.

Respectfully Submitted:


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